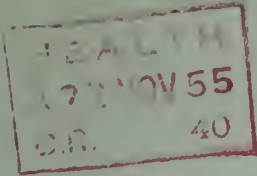


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LEDBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1 9 5 4



LEDBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies' and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1954, which is furnished in accordance with Article 17, sub-section 5, of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935, and Circular 28/54 of the Ministry of Health.

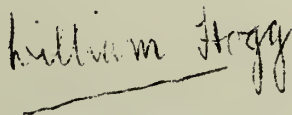
I am very glad to report that the incidence of acute infectious disease during the year was low. The number of deaths which occurred was smaller than in the previous year, and there was a small natural increase in the population.

I have to acknowledge assistance in the preparation of this Report and throughout the year by my colleagues, Mr.D.B.W. Dykes, Clerk to the Council; Mr. A.T. Thomas, Financial Officer; Mr. E.E. Jordan, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor; and Mr. K. Mills, Executive Officer.

I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for the support which has been given me in the discharge of my duties.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

14th November, 1955.



LEDBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

William Hogg, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., F.R.S.I.

CLERICAL STAFF

Miss A.O. Gale.

Telephone

Ross-on-Wye 2214

Chepstow House

Ross-on-Wye.

SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR

Mr. E.E. Jordan, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR

Mr. H.A. Lett, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Telephone:

Ledbury 391

Council Offices,

Southend,

Ledbury.



SECTION A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	49,867
Number of inhabited houses (31.12.54).	...	2,455
Rateable Value	...	£33,720
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	£135.6.9d.
Registrar General's estimated mid-year population.	...	8710

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year

Live Birth Rate per 1000 of estimated resident population.	...	13.9
Adjusted Live Birth Rate per 1000 of estimated resident population	...	15.7
Stillbirth rate per 1000 total births (live and still)	...	32.0
Death Rate per 1000 of estimated resident population (crude)	...	10.2
Adjusted Death Rate per 1000 estimated resident population	...	8.7
Area Comparability Factor (births)	...	1.13
Area Comparability Factor (deaths)	...	0.85

Deaths from Maternal Causes

	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 Total Births</u>
Heading No.30    Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	Nil	Nil

Death Rates of Infants under One Year of Age

All Infants per 1000 live births	...	57.8
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	...	52.6
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	...	142.8



The Ledbury Rural District forms the south eastern part of the County of Hereford, and can be regarded as a valley running in a north west - south east direction, with the Malvern Hills on the eastern border and the Marcle Hills on the west. The District is entirely agricultural in character.

### Population

The Registrar General's estimated mid year population is 8710, which is a small increase on the figure for the previous year (8688). This population was accommodated in 2455 dwellings in the 22 parishes comprising the Rural District. The average number of persons per inhabited house is 3.54 and the average number of inhabited houses per acre is 0.048. The natural increase of population, that is the excess of live births over deaths, is 32.

During the month of September there is a temporary increase in the population when the hops are harvested. This increase in population is now declining with the introduction of machinery for this purpose.

### Births

The total number of live births for the year is 121 (61 male and 60 female). The crude live birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population is 13.9. The adjusted live birth rate is 15.7 per 1000 population. The live birth rate for the year 1954 for England and Wales is 15.2 per 1000 population. In the previous year there were 132 live births.

The number of illegitimate live births is 7 (5 male and 2 female). Illegitimate live births formed 5.7% of all live births. Based upon the estimated population, the illegitimate live birth rate is 0.8 per 1000 population.

### Stillbirths

The number of stillbirths registered is 4, which is greater than the number for the previous year (1). The stillbirth rate per 1000 total births is 32 or 0.46 per 1000 population.

### Deaths

The actual number of deaths recorded as having occurred within the Rural District is 89 (37 male and 52 female), after deducting the deaths of non-residents occurring within the District, and adding the deaths of residents occurring outside the area. The crude death rate is 10.2 per 1000 of the estimated resident population.

Using the comparability factor for the area of 0.85, the adjusted death rate is 8.68 per 1000 population. The death rate for the year for England and Wales is 11.3 per 1000 population.

Heart diseases (headings 18, 19 and 20) accounted for 23 deaths (6 male and 17 female). The adjusted death rate from these causes is 2.24 per 1000 population. In the previous year there were 28 deaths due to these causes.

Cancer of all sites this year caused 10 deaths (6 male and 4 female) whereas in 1953 cancer caused 14 deaths. The adjusted death rate for cancer of all sites for the Rural District for 1954 is 0.98 per 1000 population.



Table of Causes of Death according to Sex and Mortality Rates.

List No.	Cause.	Male.	Female.	Per-sons.	Corrected D.R. per 1000 Popln.
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach.	1	1	2	0.195
12.	" " breast.	-	1	1	0.098
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	5	2	7	0.683
16.	Diabetes.	-	1	1	0.098
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system.	6	9	15	1.463
18.	Coronary Disease, angina.	2	7	9	0.877
19.	Hypertension with heart disease.	-	2	2	0.195
20.	Other heart disease.	4	8	12	1.170
21.	Other circulatory disease.	2	7	9	0.877
22.	Influenza.	1	-	1	0.098
23.	Pneumonia.	3	2	5	0.488
24.	Bronchitis.	4	-	4	0.390
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	2	-	2	0.195
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	-	1	1	0.098
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate.	1	-	1	0.098
31.	Congenital Malformations.	-	3	3	0.293
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases.	3	7	10	0.975
33.	Motor vehicle Accidents.	3	-	3	0.293
34.	All other Accidents.	-	1	1	0.098
All Causes		37	52	89	8.682

Tuberculosis

No deaths were caused by tuberculosis. The death rate for England and Wales from this cause is 0.179 per 1000 population.

Deaths due to Acute Notifiable Disease

Pneumonia was the only acute notifiable disease attributed as cause of death; there being 5 deaths from pneumonia, (3 male and 2 female), giving an adjusted local death rate from pneumonia of 0.488 per 1000 estimated population.

Infant Mortality

Seven deaths of children under the age of one year occurred; the infant mortality rate is therefore 57.8 per 1000 live births.

SECTION B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREALaboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory at the County Hospital, Hereford, continued to provide facilities for examination of clinical and public health specimens. The following table shows the examinations made by the Laboratory on behalf of the Department:-

Sputum	...	2
Swabs	...	3
Pus	...	2
Faeces	...	18
Milk (Biological)	...	3
" (Methylene Blue Test)	...	2
" (Phosphatase Test)	...	1
Cream	...	5
Other Foods	...	5
Water (Bacteriological)	...	99

In addition 9 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst.

Ambulance Facilities

Ambulance facilities are provided from the towns of Ledbury, Malvern and Hereford.

Hospitals

There are no hospitals within the Rural District, but the needs of the District are met by facilities provided in the general hospitals in Ledbury, Malvern, Hereford and Gloucester.

Accommodation for the treatment of infectious disease is provided at Stretton Sugwas Hospital, Hereford, whilst some notifiable disease is treated at the County Hospital, Hereford.

Clinics

An Infant Welfare Centre is held every fortnight in the parish of Colwall by a voluntary committee, with assistance from the Herefordshire County Council. A similar clinic, held at the Church Room Ledbury, is available to inhabitants of the Rural District.

Disposal of the Dead - National Assistance Act 1948, Section 50

No burials were carried out by the Local Authority under this section during the year.

National Assistance Act 1948, Section 47

No investigations were made under this section during the year.

SECTION C - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Geology

The Ledbury Rural District forms the south eastern sector of the County of Hereford. The western boundary is formed by a ridge of upper silurian limestone in the Woolhope and Much Marcle area, whilst the eastern boundary is formed by the Malvern Hills in Colwall and Eastnor. The geological formation of the Malvern Hills is complex but on the Ledbury side, upper silurian rock seems to predominate. The old Red Sandstone of the Devonian System prevails between the hills in the east and west. Whilst a number of springs occur in the Malverns, the area is not well supplied with natural sources of water.

Water Supplies

The water supplies of the area are derived from numerous separate sources; there are public wells and spouts, private wells, small privately owned piped schemes and mains of Local Authorities. The only supplies in the ownership of the Council are public wells and spouts, a small piped supply at Woolhope, and the new scheme for Wellington Heath.

The quality of the water consumed by the inhabitants shows considerable variation according to the nature of the supply. The number of samples of water submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Hereford, for bacteriological examination was 99 and of these 42 showed the water not to be of good potable quality.

The water mains of the Malvern Urban District Council, supply part of the parish of Colwall, whilst those of the Ledbury Urban District supply portions of the parishes of Eastnor and Ledbury Rural. These supplies are the only chlorinated supplies in the area. Two small privately owned piped supplies are also available in Colwall parish. Altogether in this parish 464 dwellings are supplied from mains by separate services. There are no standpipe supplies.

There are other small piped schemes in operation in Eastnor (107 dwellings), Much Marcle (32 dwellings), and Tarrington (24 dwellings). The number of dwellings supplied from the mains of the Ledbury U.D.C. in Ledbury Rural Parish is 28, and 23 dwellings in Eastnor Parish.

During the year, the major portion of the construction of the Wellington Heath Water scheme was carried out. This scheme uses a bulk supply of water from the mains of the Ledbury Urban District Council. A reservoir of 30,000 gallons capacity was constructed and 3217 yards of 4" diameter main, 3009 yards of 3" diameter main and 704 yards of 2" diameter mains were laid during the year.

The number of wells cleaned out in order to abate contamination was 19. There was no evidence that any water used in the Rural District for potable purposes had any significant action upon metals.

During the year no part of the Rural District experienced shortage of water.



### Drainage and Sewerage

The parish of Colwall is provided with a system of public sewers. During the year, new sewage disposal works were brought into operation and the use of the old works was discontinued. The new works are more elaborate, but it is too early to assess the quality of the effluent.

Six samples of effluent and two of river water were submitted to the Public Analysts for examination.

There is a short length of public sewer in Bosbury parish which receives the drainage of a small number of dwellings.

During the year 3 stopped drains were cleared and 4 defective drains were repaired and reconstructed. The number of drainage inspections carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors was 94 and 89 drain tests were made. The number of new drains provided was 84 and of these 71 were in connection with dwelling houses. No extensions to public sewers were carried out during the year.

### Rivers and Streams

The chief rivers flowing through the District are the Leadon, the Frome and Cradley Brook. The Leadon, the largest stream in the area is a tributary of the river Severn. The Leadon showed some evidence of pollution at times.

### Closet Accommodation

It is estimated that one third of all the dwelling houses in the Rural District are provided with water closets, about half use pail closets and the remainder use privies. In Colwall parish with an adequate piped water supply, the proportion of water closets in use is over 90%.

Every effort to secure closet conversion is made, and during the year 5 privies were converted to water closets and 15 pail closets were converted to water closets. In addition, 23 new water closets were provided.

### Public Cleansing

A weekly collection of domestic refuse is in operation in the parish of Colwall, carried out under contract. The refuse is tipped on parish tips. There is also a parochial scheme in Woolhope giving a collection of domestic refuse once each month. A scheme of domestic refuse collection operates in Mathon parish, the collection being once each month and a similar scheme operates in Eastnor parish every alternate month.

The Council does not undertake the collection of trade refuse, or the cleansing or emptying of cesspools and privies. The Council does not carry out street cleansing.

There are no public washhouses or baths situated within the District.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

I am indebted to the Sanitary Inspector for the following statement furnished in accordance with Article 27 (sub-section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935:-

Inspections

Accumulations	...	7
Animals	...	5
Ashbins and Ashpits	...	14
Bakehouses	...	6
Caravans	...	1
Dairies	...	12
Drainage	...	94
Drain Tests	...	89
Filthy and Verminous Premises	...	8
Filthy and Verminous Persons	...	1
Factories (without mechanical Power)	...	1
Factories (with mechanical Power)	...	21
Food Poisoning	...	42
Food Handling Byelaws	...	2
Food Premises	...	6
Fruit and Hop Pickers' Quarters	...	143
Houses (Consolidated Regulations 1925)	...	108
Housing (Other)	...	207
Hotel and Restaurant Kitchens	...	3
Ice Cream (Registered Premises)	...	4
Infectious Disease	...	31
Licensed Victuallers' Premises	...	9
Petroleum Stores	...	46
Diseases of Animals Acts (Anthrax Order 1938).	...	3
Schools	...	20
Sewage Disposal Works	...	137
Sewers	...	23
Shops	...	1
Sanitary Conveniences	...	23
Smoke Observations	...	3
Slaughterhouses	...	10
Swimming Baths and Pools	...	2
Unsound Food	...	5
Water Supply	...	174
Work Places	...	11

Notices Issued

Informal	...	65
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Summary of Defects Remedied

Cesspools and septic tanks cleansed.	...	11
Drains and Gullies cleared	...	3
Drains repaired and reconstructed	...	4
New drains provided	...	71
Defective floors repaired	...	1
Defective roofs repaired	...	3
Defective eaves gutters repaired	...	2
Defective brickwork repaired	...	1
Disinfections after infectious disease	...	3
Disinfestations	...	1
Defective chimneys repaired	...	1
Dampness of floors and walls remedied.	...	1
Cisterns cleansed or repaired	...	1

Summary of Defects Remedied (continued)

Closets repaired	...	1
Dairies reconstructed	...	1
Filthy and Verminous Premises cleansed	...	1
New Gullies provided	...	14
Inspection chambers repaired	...	1
Privies converted to Water Closets	...	5
Rainwater pipes provided or repaired	...	1
New sinks provided	...	16
Sanitary Fittings provided	...	62
New Urinals provided	...	2
Wells cleansed or repaired	...	19
Water supplies provided	...	5
Miscellaneous Defects remedied.	...	1

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There were three swimming pools open to the public within the District during the year. All are equipped with circulation and filtration apparatus.

Three samples of swimming pool water were submitted for bacteriological examination and were found to be sterile.

Hop and Fruit Pickers' Quarters

As the cultivation of hops is an important agricultural activity of the area, it is customary for large numbers of hop pickers to move into the area at the beginning of September. During the 1954 season, it is estimated that over 5,000 persons were lodged in accommodation provided by the growers. In addition, a significant number of pickers provided their own accommodation by means of caravan or tent.

These lodgings are controlled by the Rural District Council's Byelaws. Lodgings were provided on 71 different premises. These lodgings show considerable variation in size and nature. Some are provided by the temporary use and adaptation of farm buildings normally used for other purposes; in other cases special buildings are erected for lodgings. The standard of accommodation provided showed some improvement on that of the previous year.

It is apparent that the use of machinery for stripping is increasing. During 1954, there was a considerable shortage of labour for picking. One large machine is equal to 250 hand pickers.

The number of inspections of hop pickers' quarters made under the Byelaws was 143. During 1954 only one case of infectious disease occurred amongst pickers - this was a child who suffered from measles.

Camping Sites. Public Health Act 1936, Section 269

No licences for camping sites were granted by the Council under this section. Camping within the area is limited and it presents no major health problems. Eastnor Park is used as a camping ground during the summer months by members of bodies exempted under sub-section 6 of this section. The maximum number of campers at any time during the year is estimated not to exceed 100. Only one site was used for camping during the year.

Eradication of Bed-Bugs.

No dwelling house within the District was found to be infested with bed-bugs and no action was required by the Department.



Shops and Offices

No action was necessary by the Department during the year in connection with these premises.

Factories Acts 1937 and 1948

At the end of the year there were four factories without mechanical power, and twentyone with mechanical power, registered with the Local Authority.

There are no outworkers registered with the Local Authority at the present time.

Factory Form 572 (Revised)

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1954, for the Rural District of Ledbury in the County of Hereford.

Part I of Act

1. Inspections made for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector).

Premises.	Number on Register.	Inspect-ions.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities.	4	1	-	-
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	21	21	-	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (except outworkers' premises).	22	10	2	-
Total	47	32	2	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred. to H.M. Inspector.	by H.M. Inspector.	
Sanitary Conveniences.					
Insufficient	2	2	-	-	-



Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

The Council employs a Pest Officer jointly with the Hereford Rural District Council and the Ross and Whitchurch Rural District Council. The following is a summary of the work carried out under the Act.

Local	Premises inspect- ed.	Total Infest- ations.	Rats		Mice	No. of prop- erties treated.	Stat- utory Not- ices.
			Major	Minor			
Local Authorities' Properties	6	10	-	10	-	10	-
Dwelling Houses	80	35	4	31	1	-	-
Agricultural Properties.	134	42	1	41	-	-	-
All other (including business) premises.	11	4	1	3	-	-	-
Total.	231	91	6	85	1	10	-

SECTION D - HOUSINGNew Dwellings

No new Council houses were completed during the year but 43 were under construction at the end of the year.

Private persons completed the erection of 15 dwelling houses whilst 11 were in course of erection at the end of the year.

The following table gives the location of these according to parish:-

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Completed</u>	<u>Incomplete</u>
Bosbury	1	-
Coddington	1	1
Colwall	9	5
Ledbury Rural	4	-
Tarrington	-	4
Woolhope	-	1

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	...	151
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the above purpose.	...	207
2.	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1a above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.	...	108
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the above purpose.	...	133
3.		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	...	1
4.		Number of dwelling houses exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	...	15

Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.	...	11
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Action under Statutory Powers during the Year

1. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.
  - (a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. ... Nil
  - (b) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices
    - (i) By Owners ... Nil
    - (ii) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... Nil
2. Proceedings under Public Health Acts
  - (a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. ... Nil
  - (b) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices
    - (i) By Owners ... Nil
    - (ii) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... Nil
3. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936
  - (a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... Nil
  - (b) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil
4. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936
  - (a) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil
  - (b) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil

Housing Act 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding

- (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... 10
- (b) Number of families dwelling therein ... 12
- (c) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 67
- (d) Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... 2
- (e) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... 2
- (f) Number of persons concerned in (e) above ... 8
- (g) Dwelling houses which have again become overcrowded after steps by the Local Authority for abatement ... Nil

Proceedings under the Housing Act, 1949

Section 2	The number of demolition orders quashed as a result of works rendering dwellings fit for habitation.	...	2
Section 4 (a)	The number of new dwellings provided by construction, with the aid of money advanced by the Local Authority.	...	Nil
(b)	The number of dwellings provided by conversion of existing buildings, with the aid of money advanced by the Local Authority.	...	Nil
Section 15 (a)	The number of dwellings provided by the Local Authority by the conversion of houses and other buildings.	...	Nil
(b)	The number of dwellings improved by the Local Authority.	...	Nil
Section 20 (a)	The number of grants made by the Local Authority for the provision of dwellings by conversion of buildings.	...	Nil
(b)	The number of grants made by the Local Authority for the improvement of dwellings.	...	4

Overcrowding - Housing Act 1936 - Part IV

At the beginning of the year 10 dwellings were recorded as legally overcrowded within the meaning of Section 58 of the Housing Act, 1936.

During the year 2 new cases were found, but it was possible to relieve 2 cases so that the position at the end of the year showed little change.



SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949

At the end of the year 5 distributors were registered with the Council. There are no plants for pasteurization of milk or factories for processing milk within the area. Five licences were issued by the Council for the sale of tuberculin tested milk and three for the sale of pasteurized milk, and three for the sale of tuberculin tested (pasteurized milk). No licences were issued for the sale of sterilised milk. The number of dairy inspections made was 12.

Four samples of milk were sent for biological examination, two samples were sent for methylene blue test and one for phosphatase test. As a result of a biological sample being found to be not entirely satisfactory a notice was served under Article 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 requiring milk to be pasteurized before being sold for human consumption.

One case of undulant fever was brought to my notice during the year and was investigated. This was almost certainly caused by the consumption of infected milk.

Ice Cream - Food and Drugs Act 1938, Sections 14 and 16

Thirteen premises were registered with the Local Authority for the storage and sale of ice cream, and one registered for the manufacture of ice cream. No action was necessary by the Department in connection with any of these premises. The number of inspections made during the year was four. The manufacturer registered uses a complete cold mix, but little manufacture was carried out during the year.

Water Cress

No action was necessary by the Department during the year in connection with this food. The sale of water cress would appear to be small as it grows under natural conditions in a number of places in the area.

Shell Fish

The sale of shell fish within the District is very small and no action was required during the year.

Meat and other Foods

As a result of the ending of the control of meat, applications were received by the Council for licences for two slaughterhouses, and both licences were granted. Both premises had been slaughterhouses before the introduction of the control of slaughtering, and are fairly satisfactory.

Carcases inspected and condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows			Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
	Cows.	Calves.			
Number killed (if known).	37	-	-	220	33
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	3	-	-	11	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	8	-	-	5	3
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	-	-	-	-	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	-	-	-	-	6

Unsound Food

The following table shows the amount of food found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered:-

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Food</u>	<u>Cause of unsoundness</u>
3 x 16 lb. Cans	Jellied Veal	Damage and Decomposition.
1 lb.	Lactose Albumen	
7 lbs.	Compound.	Mould.
3 parts	Sheep Livers	Fluke.
29 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> lbs.	Ox livers	"
2	Lamb	Trauma.
	Pigs' heads.	Tuberculosis.

All unsound food is dealt with by burying or burning at the refuse tip.

Situated within the area are two jam factories, a fruit and vegetable canning factory, two soft drink factories, and a factory for the manufacture of cider and perry. The number of inspections of premises registered with the Local Authority under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938, was 15.

Byelaws as to Handling, etc. of Food

No contravention of these Byelaws was found at any time during the year. There are no food markets held within the Rural District, but the Byelaws have secured an improvement in the handling and wrapping of food.

Food Poisoning

During the second quarter, 9 cases of food poisoning were notified; all arose in connection with a school meal. The attack was of brief duration, the main symptoms being abdominal pain, vomiting and diarrhoea, beginning about 9/10 hours after consumption of the meal. With a few exceptions, the symptoms had subsided in about 6 hours.

The organism responsible seemed to be Welsh's bacillus, but the infected food was not discovered. It may have been the meat course; this was not examined as none was available for investigation. Altogether about 90 persons appear to have been infected. A few of the patients were carefully followed up and it was found that it was several weeks before they ceased to excrete the organism. Food poisoning due to Welsh's bacillus is not very common.



SECTION F - PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The incidence of infectious disease in the Rural District during the year was very low indeed. Altogether only 13 notifications were received, giving a notification rate for acute disease of 1.49 per 1000 estimated population.

Scarlet Fever

Only 4 notifications of scarlet fever were received, all occurred during the first half of the year. The incidence rate is 0.46 per 1000 estimated population.

Measles and Dysentery

Only one notification one notification of measles and one of sonne dysentery were received.

Poliomyelitis

Only two cases of poliomyelitis were notified, one was the paralytic form of the disease. The incidence rate is therefore 0.22 per 1000 estimated population. Both cases recovered. In the previous year no cases of poliomyelitis were notified.

Whooping Cough

Only two notifications were received and both recovered.

Pneumonia

Only three notifications were received, in the second half of the year, giving an incidence rate of 0.34 per 1000 estimated population. Altogether 5 deaths were attributed to pneumonia, with a corrected death rate of 0.48 per 1000 estimated population.

Confirmed Cases of Infectious Disease in each Quarter.					
Disease.	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	Year.
Scarlet Fever	2	2	-	-	4
Measles.	1	-	-	-	1
Dysentery.	1	-	-	-	1
Poliomyelitis (non-paralytic).	-	1	-	-	1
Poliomyelitis (paralytic).	-	-	-	1	1
Whooping Cough.	-	-	1	1	2
Pneumonia.	-	-	1	2	3
All Diseases	4	3	2	4	13

The Rural District was entirely free from diphtheria, meningococcal infection and enteric fevers throughout the year. Although the number of notifications of acute disease is extremely low, I do not think that this arises from inefficient notification.

One case of undulant fever came to the notice of the department during the year and there were five cases of gastro-enteritis in young children during the first quarter. No organism was identified but the disease may have been infective in nature.

Analysis of notified cases according  
to certain Age Groups.

Disease	0+	1+	3+	5+	10+	15+	20+	35+	45+	65+
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-
Measles.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Dysentery.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Poliomyelitis (non-paralytic).	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis (paralytic).	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	-	1	5	1	1	1	-	-	3

### Tuberculosis

At the beginning of the year there were 68 cases of tuberculosis on the Register (54 respiratory and 14 non-respiratory.) During the year 12 cases (10 respiratory and 2 non-respiratory) of the disease were added. Of these, 10 cases were new infections. The number of cases removed from the Register during the year was 5 respiratory cases. At the end of the year, therefore, 75 cases remained on the Register (59 respiratory and 16 non-respiratory).

New Cases and Mortality during Year 1954

Age Periods.	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15+	1	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
25+	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
35+	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45+	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	3	5	-	2	-	-	-	-

No deaths were attributed to tuberculosis.



